IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A diametrically expandable coupling arrangement for coupling diametrically expandable first and second tubulars, the coupling arrangement comprising:

a male thread portion on an end portion of a first tubular, the male thread portion comprising a plurality of dovetail threads made up of respective roots and opposing flanks, with the flanks being inclined at an angle of greater than 10° relative to the roots;

a nose along the end portion of the first tubular;

a female thread portion on an end portion of a second tubular, the female thread portion comprising a plurality of dovetail threads made up of respective roots and opposing flanks, and configured to threadedly mate with the threads of the male thread portion, with the flanks being inclined at an angle of greater than 10° relative to the roots; and

an undercut groove along the end portion of the second tubular adapted to receive the nose of the first tubular and to prevent the nose from separating as the first tubular is diametrically expanded into engagement with the second tubular[[.]];

wherein the thread portions define a thread cut in an opposite direction to an intended direction of rotation of a rotary expansion tool and include material properties that facilitate engagement of the threads due to rotary expansion thereof.

2. – 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein each of the opposing flanks defines stab flanks and load flanks, and both the stab flanks and the load flanks of each respective thread are inclined at substantially the same angle.

5. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the flanks are inclined at an angle of greater than 15°.

6. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the flanks of the male thread portion are inclined at an angle of less than 80° to the male thread portion roots.

7. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the flanks of the male thread portion are inclined at an angle of less than 75° to the male thread portion roots.

8. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the flanks of the female thread portion are inclined at an angle of less than 80° to the female thread portion roots.

9. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the flanks of the female thread portion are inclined at an angle of less than 75° to the female thread portion roots.

10. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the thread portions are parallel.

11. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the thread portions are tapered.

12. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the thread portions are stepped.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the coupling arrangement is dimensioned to accommodate relative axial extension between the first tubular and the second tubular.

16. (Currently Amended) The coupling arrangement of claim 15, wherein the coupling arrangement further comprises:

a deformable seal within [[the]] a groove.

17. (Previously Presented) The coupling arrangement of claim 16, wherein the deformable seal is fabricated from an elastomeric material that is energised by relative axial extension of the first tubular.

18. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 16, wherein the deformable seal comprises a material which swells when exposed to a selected material.

19. (Previously Presented) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the groove features a rounded recess angle.

20. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the first tubular comprises at least one sealing member for sealing engagement with an opposing surface of the second tubular.

21. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 20, wherein the at least one sealing member is arranged and located for sealing engagement with an opposing surface adjacent a free end of the second tubular.

22. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 21, wherein the at least one sealing member is arranged and located for sealing engagement with a surface spaced sufficiently from the free end of the second tubular to accommodate axial shrinkage of the tubular following expansion.

23. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 21, wherein the at least one sealing member is arranged and located such that the end effect of the free end of the second tubular following expansion serves to energise the sealing member.

24. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 20, wherein the sealing member comprises an elastomer.

25. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 20, wherein at least two axially spaced sealing members are provided.

26. (Currently Amended) The coupling arrangement of claim 25 [[20]], wherein at least one of the at least two sealing members is located in a groove in the first tubular.

27. (Currently Amended) The coupling arrangement of claim 25 [[20]], wherein at least one of the at least two sealing members comprises a material which swells when exposed to a selected material.

28. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 27, wherein the at least one sealing member comprises a swelling elastomer.

29. (Previously Presented) The coupling arrangement of claim 28, wherein two or more sealing members are provided and are adapted to swell in response to contact with different respective fluids.

30. – 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the thread portions are metallic.

33. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein at least some of the crests of the threads are adapted to extend axially on expansion of the coupling.

34. – 36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A first tubular having a male thread portion on an end thereof, the male thread portion comprising:

at least one seal member disposed around the first tubular, wherein the at least seal member comprises a material capable of swelling upon contact with a selected material;

a plurality of dovetail threads made up of respective roots, crests and opposing flanks, with the flanks being inclined ~~at an angle of greater than 10° relative to the roots~~; and

a nose along the end portion of the first tubular;

and wherein:

the plurality of dovetail threads of the first tubular are configured to threadedly mate with a plurality of dovetail threads on an end portion of a second tubular, ~~the plurality of dovetail threads of the second tubular being female threads made up of respective roots, crests and opposing flanks~~; and

the nose of the first tubular is configured to be received by an undercut groove along the end portion of the second tubular so as to prevent the nose from separating after the first tubular has been ~~diametrically~~ radially expanded into engagement with the second tubular.

38. (Currently Amended) A first tubular having a female thread portion on an end thereof, the female thread portion comprising:

a plurality of dovetail threads made up of respective roots, crests and opposing flanks, with the flanks being inclined at an angle of greater than 10° relative to the roots; and

an undercut groove;

and wherein:

the plurality of dovetail threads of the first tubular are configured to threadedly mate with a plurality of dovetail threads on an end portion of a second tubular, the plurality of dovetail threads of the second tubular being male threads also made up of

respective roots, crests and opposing flanks and the second tubular having a sealing member capable of swelling upon contact with a selected material; and

the undercut groove of the first tubular is configured to receive [[an]] a nose along the end portion of the second tubular so as to prevent the nose from separating after the second tubular has been diametrically expanded into engagement with the first tubular.

39. – 46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) An expandable coupling arrangement for first and second expandable tubulars, the coupling arrangement comprising:

a male thread portion on an end portion of a first tubular; [[and]]

a nose along the end portion of the first tubular; and

a female thread portion on an end portion of a second tubular, the second tubular defining an undercut groove adapted to receive the nose ~~leading end portion~~ of the first tubular, wherein the undercut groove is configured to receive and retain the nose during radial expansion of the first tubular and the second tubular by a rotary expansion tool.

~~the thread portions comprising dovetail threads having flanks inclined at an angle of greater than 10°.~~

48. (Currently Amended) A diametrically expandable coupling arrangement for coupling diametrically expandable first and second tubulars, the coupling arrangement comprising:

a male thread portion on an end portion of a first tubular;

a nose along the end portion of the first tubular;

a female thread portion on an end portion of a second tubular, the female thread portion being configured to threadedly mate with the threads of the male thread portion; [[and]]

an undercut groove along the end portion of the second tubular adapted to receive the nose of the first tubular and to prevent the nose from separating as the first tubular is diametrically expanded into engagement with the second tubular; and

at least one sealing member disposed within the coupling assembly, wherein the

at least one sealing member comprises a material capable of swelling when exposed to a selected fluid.

Please add the following new claims:

49. (New) A method of expanding a threaded coupling arrangement, comprising:

forming the threaded coupling arrangement between a first tubular and a second tubular, the threaded coupling having a threaded portion; and

expanding the threaded coupling arrangement with an expander tool having at least one radially extendable member, thereby causing the threaded portion to interlock therebetween to prevent separation of the first tubular from the second tubular.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the coupling arrangement is configured to accommodate relative axial extension between the first tubular and the second tubular.

51. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the threaded coupling further includes a deformable seal within a groove.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, further including energizing the deformable seal by relative axial extension of the first tubular due to expansion thereof.

53. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the deformable seal comprises a material capable of swelling upon exposure to a selected material.

54. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the at least one extendable member is a roller member.

55. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the threaded portion is tapered.

56. (New) A method of expanding a threaded coupling, comprising:

forming the threaded coupling by threadly connecting a first tubular to a second

tubular and interlocking a nose portion on the first tubular with a groove portion on the second tubular; and

expanding the threaded coupling with an expander tool causing the threads to form an interference therebetween and causing the groove portion to accommodate any axial extension of the first tubular due to expansion thereof, thereby preventing separation of the first tubular from the second tubular.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the threads are cut in one direction.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, further including rotating the expander tool in an opposite direction of the threads.

59. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein at least some of the crests of the threads are adapted to extend axially on expansion of the coupling.

60. (New) The coupling arrangement of claim 56, wherein the thread portions are stepped.

61 (New) A method of expanding a threaded coupling, comprising:

forming the threaded coupling by connecting a first tubular having a male thread portion with a second tubular having a female thread portion, wherein each thread portion includes a plurality of roots and a plurality of flanks; and

expanding the threaded coupling with an expander tool, wherein the male thread portion engages with the female thread portion by an interlocking and an overlapping relation between at least one back flank and at least one front flank in each threaded portion thereby ensuring the male and female thread portions do not radially separate during diametric expansion.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the material properties of the male thread portion and female thread portion are selected to facilitate engagement of the threads on the coupling being subject to rotary expansion.

63. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein each thread portion includes a plurality of dovetail threads having flanks that are inclined at an angle of greater than 10° relative to the roots.

64. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the threaded coupling further includes a deformable seal capable of swelling upon exposure to a selected material.